

The year 2020 will, more than anything else, be defined by the ongoing pandemic and how our societies have reacted to it. At the tail end of 2019, a novel virus was detected in the Wuhan district of China. It was a coronavirus, which refers to a wide variety of a particular shape of virus that includes everything from Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome to the common cold. What this one was most similar to is SARS, which was declared a local pandemic in the country of China in the early 2000's. As such, the current virus was dubbed Sars-Cov-2, which causes the disease we know as Covid-19, or colloquially known as the coronavirus.

Unlike SARS, which was mostly self-contained to China, Covid-19 made its way across the world to every continent except Antarctica, and affecting almost every nation on Earth. Even before that, we had heard scary things about the virus. It had a long incubation period, 14 days being thrown around a lot, but there were stories of even longer incubations going on for almost a month. People speculated that the virus was airborne, and people panicked. But that mostly happened later.

Let's go back to January and talk about how we got to July. This year is long and it might be wise to go over its history in order to better predict its future, and the legacy that this year will leave in future history books. Despite being discovered at the tail end of 2019, no one outside of China really had heard of this until January. And what we heard in January was... frightening. Both the disease and what the authoritarian government of China was doing to curb the spread of the disease.

By late January, with only around 25 deaths, they had stopped all train, bus, and air traffic. They made surgical masks mandatory. (1) By February, we had seen footage that suggested the government was sealing people in their apartments to prevent the spread (2), and people unable to leave their buildings for medical treatment to curb the spread of the disease (3). They even used drones to spray disinfectant. None of these stopped China from becoming the epicenter of the disease for the first leg of the year. That may be because their government was more concerned the diplomatic look of unleashing a novel virus onto the world.

A man known as Dr. Li rose early concerns over the risks and dangers of the novel coronavirus. The doctor posted a video on the Chinese social media app WeChat sent to private friends and family, but it went public and it went viral. He was forced by the Chinese government to write an apology for doing this. Afterwards, he caught the coronavirus and died roughly around the start of February. (5) Making China look even worse is that they frequently sent out equipment to the rest of the world that was either faulty or infected with the coronavirus. (80) (81)

If you want to know why people are supportive of the United States leaving the world health organization, it all starts here. On January 14, the WHO released a tweet. This one. (6) In it, they

parrot the Chinese authorities saying that person-to-person transmission of the coronavirus was unlikely, finding no clear evidence of it. This was, coincidentally, the same day that cases outside of the Wuhan district were discovered. The country as a whole had 201 laboratory confirmed cases then. For the World Health Organization to not scrutinize the data this badly, not having access to this necessary data, or misunderstand viral spread this badly severely put their credibility into question.

This issue was compounded later on when it came to the issue of Taiwan. During an interview, a senior member of the World Health Organization dodged questions about Taiwan, despite their successes in their own coronavirus fight. (7) During this interview, the WHO senior member literally called Taiwan China, whether it was a slip of the tongue or not it put even more worry on the credibility of the WHO to basically ignore Taiwan, when their methods on controlling the virus could've benefited the rest of the world. To the rest of the world, it looked like they were valuing China's contribution more than actually stopping the ongoing pandemic.

Not helping the fact was that this happened at possibly the worst time that it could've., before the Chinese New Year, which took place on January 25th of this year. During this time, people travelled all over the world, especially to and from China to visit family and acquaintances from all over the year. When you combine this with the fact that the virus could be incubating for a 14 days, it was a perfect storm for disaster.

To put it bluntly, the rest of the world didn't help much. When rumors of this new virus circulated around the rest of the world, they were often shot down as racist. Talking about the virus, in some areas, was seen as being prejudiced towards the Chinese. Italy went so far as to have a "hug a Chinese" day campaign (8) on February 1st. People were encouraged to photograph themselves hugging Chinese people in an attempt to curb racism towards the people. Coincidentally or not, Italy became one of the worst countries for the virus. This is a theme that was played throughout the globe.

In the United States, coronavirus measures became partisan almost immediately. Left-wing politicians such as Nancy Pelosi and Andrew Cuomo not only participated in the Chinese New Year events which caused massive gatherings of people.(9)(10). The news media did not help matters at all. Many of them made the claim that the flu was more deadly. They repeatedly told people not to worry. (15)(16) The day after the United States issued its first travel restriction, US Today reported that the flu was more worrying on February 1st. (17) Get used to me saying this, but the media at least here in the United States has been a continual problem.

 KVAL

Health official: You are more likely to catch flu in Oregon than deadly Wuhan coronavirus

He's infected with the Wuhan novel coronavirus, an important distinction because in fact there are various types of coronavirus associated with everything from ...

Jan 22, 2020



 USA TODAY

What is coronavirus, and should Americans be worried? What to know about the outbreak in China

"It's the flu and measles which pose a greater threat to the global community at this time." Is coronavirus contagious? How is transmitted?

The virus can be spread ...

Jan 21, 2020



 Los Angeles Times

Should you panic about the coronavirus from China? Experts say no

It is a coronavirus, which makes it a relative of the pathogens that cause ...

"We don't have evidence yet to suggest this is any more virulent than the flu you see in ...

Jan 24, 2020



On January 31st, president Donald Trump issued travel restrictions, not a total travel ban as was reported. Non-citizens that were not family members of United States citizens could not enter the country from China, which was criticized to hell and back. And I suppose we should talk about this and its validity. The chances that travel restrictions had done anything were slim to none for a variety of reasons.

First and foremost, it happened too late. Most of the travel had occurred before the Chinese New Year, any spread of the disease would've happened by the time that it was implemented. The second main issue is that this would have been totally easy to circumvent. All someone had to do was fly from China to a third country and then to the United States or vice-versa. It took until March for travel bans to Europe to be implemented as well. Additionally the coronavirus was already in the country at this point. The first case was identified on January 20th, and by that time it was already too late to close the doors.

Of course as time went on, other countries closed their borders to each other, including members of the European Union, a compilation of countries that were designed for, among other reasons, to have free movement among each other. And as time goes on, isolating a country has more and more practical concerns. Let's take New Zealand for instance. In the ongoing attempt to control the pandemic, New Zealand has been seen as a pinnacle.

To be fair, they've had an advantage to start with. New Zealand is an island country in the corner of the world that is not a major hub of travel. On top of that, it has a relatively low population density. Between 5 and 6 million people live in the country of New Zealand, which is less than the population of the US state of Massachusetts. However, the New Zealand population is scattered across two islands the size of the entire Eastern United States.

New Zealand locked down hard. On June 8th, they declared that they had no coronavirus left in their country. (11). From that day, they decided to start opening things up again. (12) On the 16th, the country had two new cases. Two people had visited the country for a funeral, one of which was showing no symptoms whatsoever. A third case was soon to follow (13), also someone who had come in from another country.

New Zealand's main attempt to control the incoming virus to have people quarantine when entering the country for 14 days. (14) Many people do not follow this protocol. One story tells of a man who cut through a 6 foot fence in order to go to a liquor store. People who test negatively don't believe they're sick and generally don't like to be treated like prisoners. Another man who tested positive, visited a supermarket. Their health minister had even resigned after breaking their own quarantine rules (18), another theme that we will see throughout this entire mess.

If New Zealand, an island country that managed to take care of the virus domestically can't keep it out of its borders, what does virtually any other country hope to accomplish by closing its borders? But let's assume that they are able to clamp down on this and keep control. Then what? New Zealand's economy is highly dependant on tourism (19). In order to keep Covid out, there is nothing else they can do but keep everything else out as well. What's their plan? To keep things closed down until the coronavirus is gone in the rest of the world? That's not feasible by any stretch of the imagination. Quarantining everyone who arrives in the country for 14 days? Yeah, I'm sure the tourists will love that.

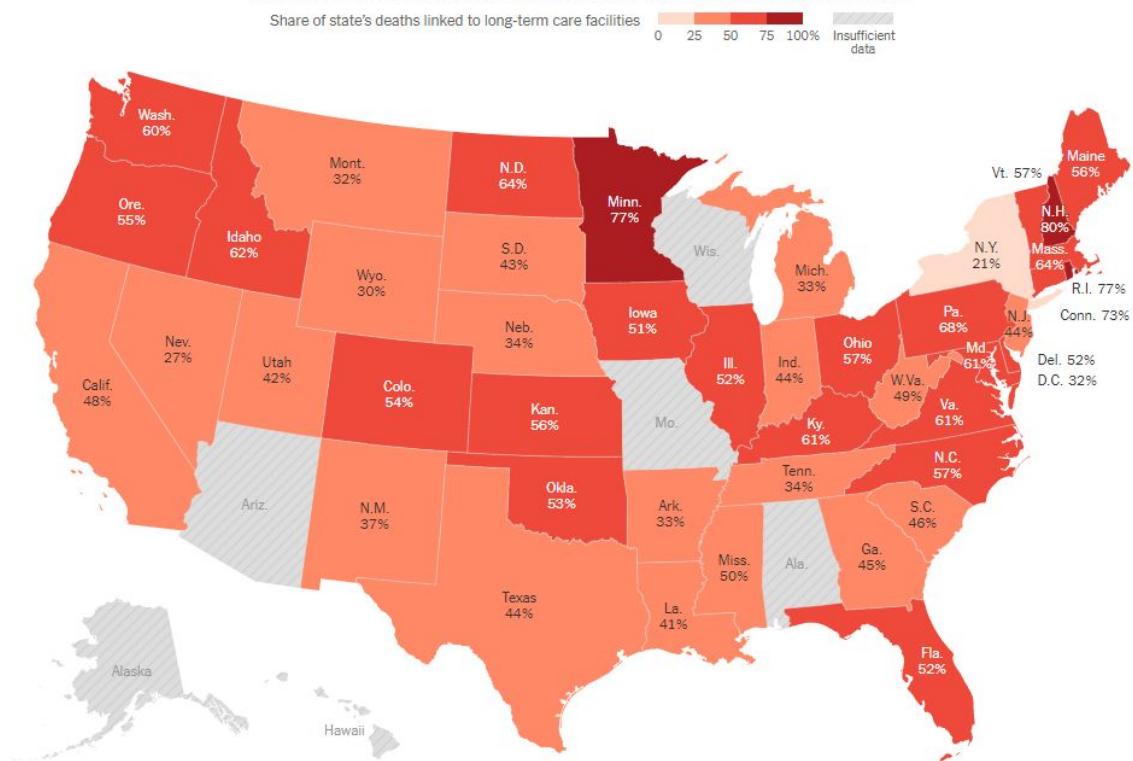
On top of that, travel restrictions based on disease are usually enforced with infrared thermometer guns. They can be described as... inaccurate at best, because taking a temperature is one of the least reliable ways to determine if someone actually has a disease, even one that has fever as a known symptom. (24). Thermometer guns, first of all, aren't really tested for accuracy

out in the field. Unlike determining speed from a distance, determining temperature has way too many variables. There could easily be interference from background temperature.

Beyond that, there's the issues that come from conception. The average temperature of the human body is 98.6 degrees, or 37 degrees Celsius. Keyword being average. Normal body temperatures can actually go as low as 97 degrees or as high as 99 degrees. If someone who has an abnormally low body temperature has a fever they can register as normal. Meanwhile someone with a naturally high body temperature can be falsely dinged. On top of that, you have to deal with this [Tylenol.] Tylenol, or Acetaminophen is an over the counter medication that is used to treat aches and reduce fever. It cannot cure coronavirus, but it can mask someone having a fever.

In this pandemic the entire big picture must be thought of. Thinking of things from moment to moment has lead to multiple disastrous policies and we're going to go through every single one of them. And let's start with the most... evil is the word I want to use. The most evil thing that has been done in order to curb the spread of Covid. Here's a not-so-fun fact for you. Did you know that 40% of the Covid deaths in the United States occurred in nursing homes (20). That is more than 54 thousand deaths.

In at least 24 states, a majority of deaths are linked to nursing homes.



In at least 24 states, a majority of deaths are linked directly to nursing homes. But that's not the full story. Let's talk about public health policy, shall we. The states of New Jersey, California, and New York REQUIRED nursing homes to take in Covid patients. (21) New York even had a rule. As long as the patients were stable, nursing homes HAD to take patients that were diagnosed with the coronavirus, essentially condemning everyone within to die. Connecticut and Massachusetts had certain facilities within designated specifically for Covid patients. The chart should show you how well that worked out. 64% of Covid deaths in Massachusetts occurred in nursing homes. In Connecticut, it was 73%, almost three quarters of them. 3 in 4. To put things into numbers, 6,000 nursing home patients died in New York on the governor's orders and we're going to be talking about Andrew Cuomo a great deal.

He claimed that this was following the CDC guidelines and blamed Trump for his actions, a statement which Politico rates as mostly false. (22) I want to talk about evil this man is. Let's start with the fact that he had run a survey on Covid hospitalizations, looking at data from 100 New York hospitals (23). 66% of people surveyed had gotten Covid while following stay at home orders, and the second biggest percentage came from... nursing homes at 18%. This is 84% of people who had contracted Covid, following his orders. He seemed surprised by this, but didn't let this new information change his plans or policies. So much for following the science and the data.

This video is monstrous. (25) Within it, Cuomo writes off every single possible side effect of his lockdowns. Poverty, domestic abuse, and so on. To every single thing, he says "it's not death." If you're beaten by your husband. If you're starving to death. If you're homeless. As long as it's not death, it's fine by him. Then when suicide is brought up, he says, and I quote "yeah, but illness may be my death, as opposed to your death."

Watching the video in which he says this leaves me a special kind of speechless. Let me just say that the... "it may be my death" line doesn't convince anyone who sees no value in the life of a soulless slime ball who only cares about himself. In my personal opinion, with this video and this interview, Andrew Cuomo declared himself the most evil man in American politics, and that is a bar to hit. And we're not done with this guy.

Andrew Cuomo requested for thousands of ventilators. 30,000 of them. (26) It was claimed that he had ventilators in stockpile. He did, but he claimed that that was for the apex. (27) He made a huge deal about how these all would be needed. In the end, he had enough to start sending to other states (28)(29). If the state needed thousands of the things, why was he able to send away even hundreds?

This whole ventilator race was moot anyway, because as we've learned that ventilators aren't actually the most helpful thing in the world of fighting this virus. (30) Some hospitals were too quick to put people on Ventilators. Unfortunately certain features of the disease could make mechanical ventilation more harmful. In the UK, Boris Johnson was put on oxygen and not a ventilator (31). Moving away from ventilators might be one of the reasons that death rates continue to fall. We've known since 2015 that mechanical ventilation leads to long term effects, which maybe the long-term effects that Covid-19 has been blamed for. (82)

Remember what I said, not thinking of the whole picture has been one of the biggest and most continual mistakes throughout this whole thing.

Andrew Cuomo, after demanding ventilators that he would eventually send away decided to tax out of state essential workers who had come in to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. (32) You wanna know how the media treated this guy? (33) They wanted this guy to be president. There were other politicians in the United States that have taken objectionable actions throughout this pandemic, but it's impossible to talk about them without getting into general lockdowns.

Italy scared the world. After the outbreak escaped Wuhan, Italy became the epicenter for awhile. As of the end of June, Italy has had about a quarter of a million coronavirus cases. Many Italians tried to keep continuing with life as normal. For those who say that this behavior that was unique to the US and we're a special kind of selfish, you're... wrong. (34) People were ticketed for going on general walks. At some point, one mayor even threatened to send in police with flamethrowers. People have suggested that that was a joke, but... considering the situation, I don't think that that could have possibly been considered a joke, cultural barrier or not.

The rest of the world didn't want to become the next Italy. It became almost a meme. If we don't do x,y, or z, in two weeks we'll look like Italy. Here in the United States though, New York was looking like it would be. On March 19th, California became the first state to lockdown. Let's talk about some misconceptions about this, because the plot on lockdowns has been entirely lost. The slogan for lockdowns was "flatten the curve." You don't hear this much anymore, because of something called goal creep. You don't hear flatten the curve anymore because no one wants to flatten the curve.

Do you know what the purpose of the lockdowns were? Let me rephrase the question. How many cases of Covid was locking down meant to prevent? If you answered anything else other than 0 you are wrong. The purpose of lockdowns was not to prevent coronavirus cases, but to stop them from happening all at once. I know that people have lost this goal because they're being surprised that cases are going up now that lockdowns are ending. That was... always supposed to happen.

The idea was that our hospital infrastructure was going to be overwhelmed and instead of dealing with all cases at once, we would spread it over weeks. Not months. Weeks. Flattening the curve was supposed to be over the course of 15 days and end roughly on April 1st. (35) At the same time, experts did claim that we needed to lockdown for several more weeks. Once again though, weeks. Not months.

At some point, stopping everyone from getting the virus all at once became stopping people from getting the virus altogether. If you've lost count we're between four and five months in. It's worth noting that every single lockdown order in the United States was an executive order issued by each state governor without any legislative oversight. To be fair most other countries did have some kind of lockdown, with the notable exception of Sweden. Apparently it's against Sweden's constitution. It's against the American constitution as well to prevent freedom of assembly but that's neither here nor there.

We should be talking about effectiveness of the lockdowns before we talk about the legal or ethical ramifications, right? The best time to do that would've been before we tried these policies, but the second best time is now I suppose. Study after study has shown that lockdowns don't work for what they eventually became - preventing the virus entirely (36)(37)(38).

Sweden's covid death count has been approaching zero (39). They were heavily criticized for not locking down all throughout spring, but in a few years it may look like what everyone else did was simply delaying the inevitable. In the United States, several states such as Florida, Texas, and Arizona have been criticized for opening up too early. This ignores the nine states that didn't lockdown whatsoever and didn't see explosively growth in the virus. Many states saw their peak before lockdowns were enacted at all, or within the incubation period afterwards.

And it was doomed to fail from the start. Let's talk about the practicality. Starting with curfews. Many states imposed curfews, saying that people couldn't be outside after a particular hour. The logic doesn't hold up. There is nothing saying that it's more likely to spread the virus at night than it is during the day. In fact, this, like many of the other methods could have a backlash effect. If you force people who would've been out at night into shorter and shorter hours, it crowds more traffic into less time, which increases the chance for infection.

Only having certain stores open, also has a similar effect. Imagine if there are five stores with five customers in each. One of them has covid. They end up infecting only the five people in the store that they go to. When you've crammed them all in one store, that creates 25 cases, not five. It can also get people to travel around more if they start looking for a store that is still open.

So, let's talk about the costs of lockdown. Because of media reporting, there's been a stereotype that anti lockdown people just want haircuts, or they want to sacrifice grandma for the stock market. If you take me seriously as someone who doesn't fall into one of those straw man arguments, I'll take you seriously as someone who wants genuine knowledge and information. Let's also keep in mind that it may take years before we truly find out the actual cost of our lockdown policies. Not just in economic terms, but in terms of human suffering and human deaths.

Yes, human deaths. People have and will continue to die because of the lockdown policies. And I'm having trouble figuring out where to start. How about the medical establishments we were trying to save. Let's start with elective surgery. Elective surgery is a terrible name, by the way. It conjures up visions of plastic surgery like a nose job, but it actually includes things like stage three cancer surgeries. An elective surgery is simply any surgery that you don't need to have done right here and now.

In the UK alone, 35,000 cancer deaths may come about because of delayed diagnoses.(40). And I want to have an aside about media reporting right now. A lot of these media reports say the "coronavirus did it". Like this one. This is not true. The coronavirus did not cause these missed cancer diagnoses. It was our human decision to lockdown and prevent people from getting these diagnoses. We had the option to not do this. Call it a desperate decision if you want, but this was OUR decision, not the decision of the virus.

Also, in the UK, a backlog of surgeries threaten to overwhelm their hospital services (41). It's ironic, isn't it? In an attempt to stop hospitals from being overwhelmed, we created a system where people held off on going to the doctors when they desperately should've, so months worth will all come in at once. That's just cancer in one country. You want to add dentistry to that? An alarming number of people have attempted to do it themselves with wire cutters and superglue. (43) Dentistry is going to become a huge problem in the coming months and years because if there's a type of treatment you do not want to delay, it's a trip to the dentist. Bad problems can become worse. A cavity, untreated, becomes a root canal. Root canals untreated can lead to an abscessed tooth (144)

You know what doesn't help? In the United States, elective surgeries are a major part of hospital's business models. Because their main source of profit has vanished, many doctors are being laid off and furloughed. During a pandemic, because of our decisions, doctors are having benefits reduced and even being retired. (42) In the United States, 60,000 family practices have closed their doors. I need to keep remind you this. Locking down was a practice that was meant to save hospitals and medical staff. And we're not done with even the medical consequences of this.

Vaccine programs have been interrupted in 68 countries because of the lockdowns. (45). That's 80 million infants who are no longer vaccinated for measles or polio, as well as a bunch of other routine vaccines like mumps and rubella. And the kicker is that we were close to getting rid of polio altogether.

In terms of mental health, calls to suicide hotlines have seen 900% rise. That's an exaggeration. The real number is 891% (46). So you know how when your friend or even a random stranger says that he's been depressed due to the ongoing lockdown measures and you just throw him a suicide hotline number? Yeah, you're not helping. Suicide hotlines have been too overwhelmed to do anything. Actual suicides are expected to rise in a similar fashion as well.

It's a perfect storm to create mental health problems. First of all, there's a storm of stress and anxiety. Then take them away from their jobs. Doing nothing like that is a way that depressive thoughts fester. Isolate them away from any friends or family. Make them feel guilty for being a walking biohazard. Don't let them go outside. And end in person therapy. If there is no major spike in suicide from the human organized lockdowns, it will literally redefine what we know about depression. It's also worth noting that gun sales have been on the rise, especially among first time buyers (48). If you're feeling depressed, I'd give you advice on what to do to help take care of it, but it involves civil disobedience and breaking social distancing guidelines and that could get this video taken down from YouTube.

Childhood development is something else that's going to be of consequence. Children can't just put it off for months at a time. We may have a generation of socially stunted youth, crippled by anxiety disorders (57). Children who have trouble making connections with other people often turn to violence or drugs later in life. And that's not even mentioning education. Throughout the world, education programs have been interrupted, and it's actually a great deal of controversy right now determining when they should start again.

People argue that zoom-style education is perfectly acceptable. Distance learning has been repeatedly shown throughout this entire crisis that it is a failure of an idea (83)(84). In some school environments, four in ten students have showed up for class 2 or less days per week. (85) Missing out on education is well documented to hurt people drastically later in life.

In the realm of mental health, let's go over some of the things we used to know. Some people are forced to live and stay by themselves during the lockdowns. In places like New York, some apartments are about the size of prison cells. And solitary confinement has been deigned torture. (49) Loneliness is about as deadly as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. (50) If you're stressed about the state of the world that does even more to your mortality.

Also, human beings are a social species. Preventing people from seeing each other is not just inhumane it is literally human. You see, maybe you've heard of this, oxytocin. It's a hormone in our brain that makes us feel good when we are physically close to each other. Not talking through a screen. But in the same physical space. It's important for us to make confusion.

It's not to be confused with Oxycodone. Oxycodone is a painkiller that's often abused by people who try to get high, and it's been an epidemic of its own for several years. I bring this up, because in times of intense stress and when people have nothing better to do, they often turn to addictions. And because alcohol is apparently an essential product, use of it is on the rise. (51)

Both not having a job and being addicted to something are both direct causal links to abuse, both spousal and child. And wouldn't you know, like suicide calls being on the rise, domestic abuse calls have been as well. (52) The best thing that you could possibly argue for the lockdown is that we are sacrificing some lives for the lives of others. And in that case, we as a society have failed triage.

Let me ask you this, between an 80 year old man and a 17 year old boy, which one do you think gets priority when it comes to a replacement heart? Believe it or not there are people whose entire job it is to make decisions like this, and it's a difficult job. The victims of Covid-19 are primarily elderly, with the highest risk of death being those above 70. When you put things mathematically, a 17 year old who misses a cancer diagnosis and dies weighs differently than a 70 year old who gets covid and dies. It sounds horrible, which is why triage is done by professionals who learn to put their emotions aside.

You hear "if it's to save just one life" a lot like the other slogans as if our decisions aren't going to lead to any disaster on their own. This gif was extremely popular in the coronavirus subreddit (53). I doubt it would be more appealing if it was "this person blew his brains out" "this person died of a missed cancer diagnosis" "this person was killed by her husband." Because what you have asked entails exactly that. It might not have if this lasted for the 15 days promised, but months in, yes. These are the real tangible effects of our lockdown experiment.

And we're not done. This is only if you care about your country. According to the UN, over 135 million people across the world are going to face famines because of our actions. (54) 300,000 people could starve per day over a three month period. People have often asked me if I wanted to die drowning in my own fluids. I'd prefer it to starving to death. Generally speaking, from diagnoses to death in Covid takes about 14 days. It takes your average adult twice as long to starve to death while your body eats itself. It's a horrible and painful way to go. In the United

States, foodbanks are overwhelmed (55). Several million children have relied on school lunches in the United States in order to be fed, which they no longer have access to.

This isn't a problem that you can get out of by printing more money. The issue isn't that people can't afford this free food. The issue is that people aren't working to produce it. Yeah, we have a surplus of food and we're nearing the end of it. And of course, in the next couple of months, 28 million people will become homeless (56). Sure, you can delay the rent again, but as soon as that timer wears off, the landlords will be asking for the back rent that was missed. Because they need to pay taxes on the property. If they can't pay the taxes on the property, the cities that have required rent freezes will be in even worse shape.

You see, when people talk about "The economy" they mean they don't want 28 million people to be homeless. It's a really simple solution to prevent this problem. Let people work. That is all that had to be done. I am beyond confident that the lockdowns of 2020 will go down in history as possibly the worst public health policy of all time, because not only did it fail to do what it was imposed to do, it literally did the opposite and it threw in a bunch of collateral damage to compensate. I mean this with no exaggeration. If we did literally nothing in regards to the lockdown, we would have been better off.

And I'm not done yet. Let's talk about authoritarianism that's been screaming around the world.

In Kenya, more people have died from police brutality trying to crack down on people disobeying lockdown than people have actually died from Covid in that country (58). In their desperation to stop Covid, Hungary became a dictatorship (59) A mayor in Brazil warns of a genocide with covid killing off a specific minority at a disproportionate amount combined with a far right government. (60) In Melbourne, Australia, they harshly locked down their public housing towers in Victoria, not letting people outside. And these were small apartments with no balconies. And the government took care of them like governments do, giving them food that expired in 2019 and giving Muslim families pork products. (61)

Contact tracing is another lockdown measure that has backfired horribly in some cases. In South Korea, for instance, a contact tracer tracked an outbreak to a gay bar and that increased incidents of homophobia across the country.(79)

In the United States, the mayor of New York City has been accused of antisemitic double standards, after singling out the Jewish community in a tweet, breaking up a Jewish funeral, and locking off a park in a Jewish area. He did this while supporting black lives matter protests, which totalled greater numbers. (62)(63)(64). Governor Gretchen Whitmer threatened people

with harsher lockdowns for protesting her lockdown orders, and then went out herself to protest in the Black Lives Matter movement. (65)(66).

In the United States, we've had several snitching hotlines turning neighbor on neighbor. The mayor of Los Angeles even himself infamously said "snitches get rewards." (86) When the citizenry is encouraged to tattle on each other, it always always leads to bad things. Well, maybe with some exceptions. When it was tried in New York City, it was filled with trolls and porn to the point it had to be shut down. (87) And when this was tried in Missouri, all of the snitches got their personal information released because they needed to make it public to do snitch in the first place (88) This information revealed exactly why this was a bad idea. A lot of the time people snitched on bosses and workspaces they didn't like or neighbors they had a vendetta against to begin with.

I can't speak to the rest of the world, but the lockdown orders are above and beyond unconstitutional here in the United States. You don't have to be a political scholar to see this. The first amendment clearly states that the freedom to peaceably assemble shall not be infringed. There is no disclaimer that says "unless there's a pandemic." Shall not be infringed, ever. Several of our politicians, Whitmer namely, have been on a power trip. And no, it's not like the founding fathers never foresaw a potential pandemic. It's not like they're a new thing. They knew that there were pandemics that could cause devastation even back then. In fact, George Washington lead the first mass military inoculation. (67)

People like to point out the court decision Jacobson vs. Massachusetts, in which our Supreme Court did affirm the ability of the state to suspend rights in name of public health. This decision was used to uphold a later court decision, Buck vs. Bell, which determined that mentally handicapped could be forcibly sterilized against their will which had happened up until the 1970's. (68) (69) It's also never been expressly overturned. During this pandemic, it has also been used to justify Texas suspending abortion rights. (70). It's a stupid decision that could have been used to justify the Tuskegee Syphilis Experiment and injecting pregnant women with Plutonium. You could justify anything in the name of public health. One attorney even argued that the protocol for ebola should be immediate execution. (71) The guy later killed his mother's dog and claimed he was the second coming of Christ. But yes, he was an attorney that was actually a part of high profile cases and shit. This isn't old news either. The guy was arrested in 2018 and had a history of posting racist and misogynistic shit to Twitter before the platform banned him.. Jacobson vs. Massachusetts also lead to the creation of the modern anti vaccine movement, by the way.

Every action has an equal and opposite reaction. When you tell people that they have to do something, it will make some people more apt to not listen to you. I guess that's a good lean in to

masks. In the past few weeks, many places in the United States have put mask ordinances as lockdowns ease. And a lot of people are not happy about it, protesting in all kinds of ways. And a lot of people are wondering why the hell people don't want to wear it? I mean some of them even say they're not effective. I mean, where did they get that idea?

From the United States surgeon general, the highest health officer in the country. On February 29th, he tweeted out that we need to stop buying masks. (72) The person we put in charge of pandemic control, Dr. Fauci said we shouldn't wear masks (73) The Center of Disease Control said not to. (74) If you wonder why there's low mask compliance, it's your own damn fault.

They gave reasons about the effectiveness of the masks, or lack of. In the 60 minutes interview, Fauci himself states that masks could make things worse. If people fiddled with them it could make them touch their face, which would directly lead to contamination. Hell, the Surgeon General's tweet is still up. And this isn't just an American thing either. This is an Australian news service reporting on it. (75)

That video even shows the effectiveness of various types of masks. By spraying lysol you could see what passes through each of the masks. There were actually several videos that showed the risk of masks. (89) So, before we continue, let me be absolutely clear here. Our understanding of a mask has not changed whatsoever. We didn't suddenly learn that what Fauci said here wasn't true. While our understanding of the virus has changed, the actual understanding of masks has not.

With that in note, we've got a problem. Either every single part of our health apparatus here in the United States was lying then or lying now. This is a dangerously bad situation. The CDC did admit that they lied, as they wanted to save masks for the health professionals. The Surgeon General also suggested the same, but Fauci himself, our disease expert gave reasons as to why the masks don't work. As for the CDC, if they were willing to lie, for whatever purpose, it means that they're willing to lie again. Liars don't just lie once and then not again. If they can justify it for the public health, they'll lie all night and day.

Fauci even admitted that he lied when he was questioned at a hearing, and it may be one of the reasons that the white house is trying to reign him in. (145). This video is more than a little worrying, due to Fauci's response and for McKinley's lack of ability to ask actual followup questions. "We're going to play that game again" Dr. Fauci, what game? Is holding you responsible for your medical advice, holding you to your word considered a game in your mind? If you wanted to protect PPE for medical staff, why didn't tell people to make cloth masks like the CDC suggests now as better than nothing? Why should the American people trust anything

else you have to say now that you are a known and admitted liar who will do so as long as he can justify it for the greater good? Are you aware that because of your lies, there is massive confusion within the United States about mask effectiveness. How many lives do you think could have been saved if people wore masks from the start of the pandemic? Do you take any responsibility for those lives that were lost from people who decided that masks were ineffective, based on your words? Quite honestly, it's not so much that Fauci lied, but the fact that he was able to do so so repeatedly, readily, and without really dropping a beat. This is... scary.

Currently the CDC and the WHO say that masks are better than nothing. But let's really examine this. Do you, dear viewer, wear your mask properly? Let's run down the checklist. Are you clean shaven? Mask effectiveness is greatly reduced when facial hair breaks the seal. Any longer facial hair like a beard or such will create gaps that a virus can escape from.

And remember, you cannot mandate that the general public be clean shaven. As that violates the first amendment. That pesky thing. Not only is fashion a manner of speech, but some religions require people to not shave, such as the Sikh.

Second question. Does your mask cover your nose? If you don't cover your nose with it you have no right to criticize anyone else for not wearing masks, since you're basically at the same level. Third, have you ever shared a mask with anyone? That's like sharing someone's underwear. If someone has coronavirus, and you wear their mask, congratulations, you've gotten infected from wearing their mask.

Next, have you ever used a disposable mask twice? Great, that's like using a disposable diaper or a condom twice. And on the other side, do you wash your reusable mask every single day? You've got to, per guidelines. And of course, if you take your mask off to talk to someone... you've ruined the whole point. You see, that whole six foot distance tip. That's for when you're just... around each other. When you're talking, the distance is much further. Talking releases droplets further than breathing. So, yes, you are expected to communicate with other people from at least six feet away with a muffler over your mouth.

Next, have you ever touched the inside of your mask without washing your hands? Can't do that. It's contaminated. Do you wash your hands before putting your mask on and after taking it off? And do you remove the mask from the ear straps, not the mouth area? If you do each of these things, congratulations, you've done everything right and you still might not be helping.

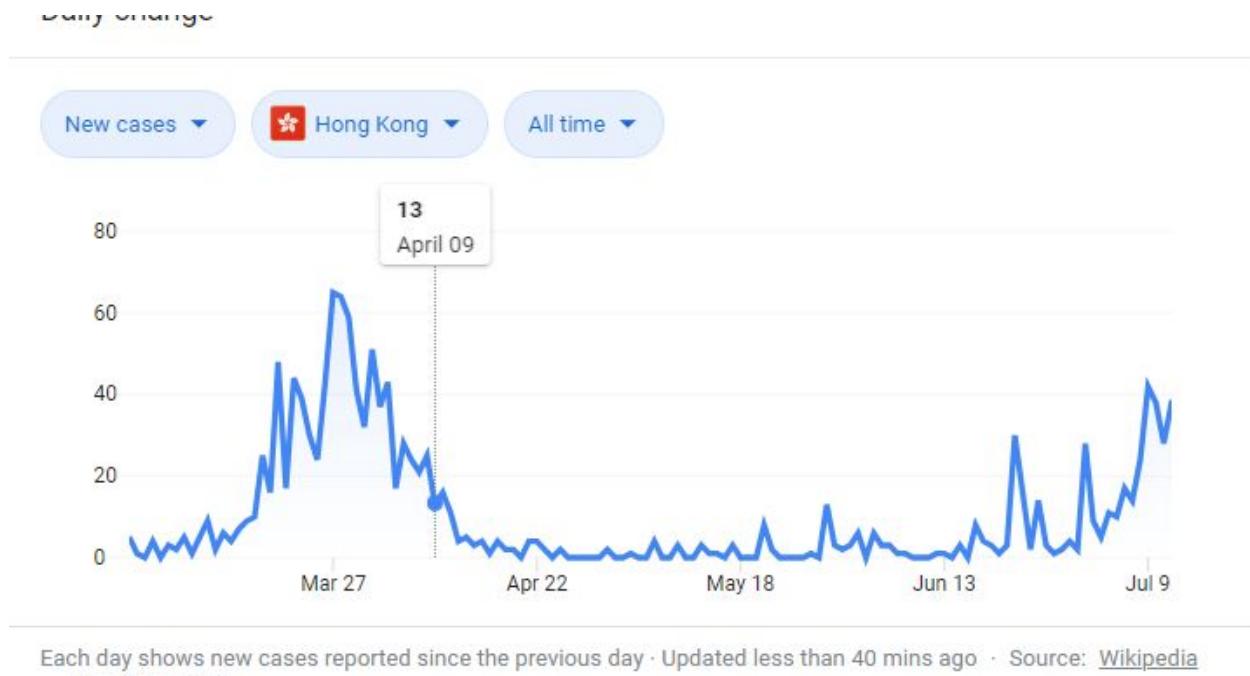
Lots of people buy masks from Etsy or Amazon that are basically mesh and provide no real or even theoretical protection (76). If there are holes big enough in your mask to see through, the virus will get through. Studies on mask use assume that people use them perfectly, but as often

seen, people don't, because the protocol to using them properly is complicated, especially to do this every time someone leaves the house.

So, let's go over some common misconceptions. One of the most common things people will say is "all of these people are going to get Covid, but I'm going to be fine. I'm wearing a mask." Nope. The mask, even assuming that it works, is not to protect you. It's to protect other people from you. This is what it is supposed to do in theory. Covid, or any other virus can get in through other orifices like your tear ducts, or of course if you follow mask protocol wrong and end up smearing disease on your face.

Rule one of not catching Covid is to not touch your face, and by putting masks on and taking them off constantly requires you to do that. There is reasonable doubt to their effectiveness. People have suggested that you can make a mask out of anything, including scarves or t-shirts with holes. There is a reasonable doubt to these things working. And this is the problem with security theater. If these things don't keep people safe and just make people feel safe, they are more likely to engage in risky behavior, violating social distancing protocols because they feel that the mask is perfect protection.

It's not just the United States either. Canada started mandating masks in July, far past their peak. (77) If they were the silver bullet they're being praised as, why did it take so long for the western world to start mandating them at all? In fact, in many places in the world, masks have been illegal. Most notable Hong Kong where they were banned last year in reaction to the protests, which lasted until April 9th.



As you can see, Hong Kong was already on a decline before the masks were unbanned and now months later they're on a rise in spite of them. There's plenty of empirical evidence against the effects of masks from all over the world. Even if you ignore China, the place where the outbreak started. Even some Asian countries like South Korea are fed up with the masks, because of it being summer (78)

Yeah, it's hot and humid. And masks do make it more difficult for people to breathe. All I'm saying is that if masks were said to be effective back in winter, there would be much higher compliance than there is now. On an extremely humid day, your average person is not going to want to do anything that makes it harder for them to breathe. And even if they do, they'll sweat more. Sweat is a droplet. Covid is a droplet based virus. This is why gyms are still closed.

This is ignoring the other legitimate health concerns that masks may occur. There are physical ailments that do prevent people from wearing masks. (90) Most notably conditions that make breathing difficult on their own such as asthma or COPD. But it also involves people who have limited movement capabilities like those with cerebral palsy, those with tactile sensitivity that can lead to sensory overload as in people with autism, or people who have had psychological trauma. Masks can cause some people to engage in panic attacks.

Because of these things, by the way, masks can't be made mandatory in the United States in any meaningful way. Requiring someone to wear a mask violates the Americans with Disabilities

Act, and no they do not prove that they actually have a condition. A place of business actually puts themselves at risk of a lawsuit for requiring masks to everyone.

That's even ignoring the theorized risks of masks and such that I'm not really interested in getting into, but they involve both physical and psychological. For now, studies seem to imply that masks do work, in ideal conditions. One of the leading arguments against masks is that... the conditions people wear them in is far from ideal, and that a badly treated and contaminated mask is worse than no mask at all.

Of course you get a bunch of defenses for masks. If there's a potential that they could work to save lives we should wear them. Right, there was also a potential that ventilators could save lives and those ended up killing people. And we spent the first leg of this race trying to mass produce something that we can't really use. Anything we do poorly thought out can do more damage than it even has the potential of preventing.

A lot of people also like to bring up the Spanish Flu, talking about how they knew to lockdown and they knew to use masks way back when. And yeah, you can see a lot of people wearing masks and such way back when in various pictures. This is a terrible argument. The Spanish Flu was the deadliest pandemic in recent history. 50 million people died across the world, and here in the United States over 5 times as many people died from it than they had as Covid. From a cursory glance it looks like whatever they did back then was a massive failure. Hell, even then actual experts were doubting their effectiveness (91) because people often made them out of whatever they had lying around and didn't wash the damn things.

"But there's a chance that the disease can spread asymptotically." You know, asymptomatic spread of a disease isn't a new thing, right? And it isn't going away after Covid either. (92) There's a few diseases that can do this, most infamously Typhoid. But there's also tuberculosis, which killed 1.5 million people in 2018, which is more than HIV/AIDs, which can also spread asymptotically. (93) To follow that logic through its end, you will need to wear a mask until asymptomatic spread is simply not a thing, because you could have a whole host of illnesses and never even notice it. And even mundane things like the flu or common cold can kill some people.

"Anything to save a life" can go to scary places if you take it to its logical extreme. If you set a super spreader on fire that may eventually save a lot of lives. It's inhumane as all hell, but "anything to save a life" is a moral standard that requires you to do something like that if someone is spreading a disease that you cannot cure. It's all too easy to be lead astray by those kinds of feelings, and if you want to defend masks or lockdowns or social tracing or any other policy, you need to stop thinking of these things in a vacuum, because they aren't in a vacuum.

Everything builds into another and everything we are doing to fight Covid seems to be sticking around for longer than is necessary, or even wanted.

Sometimes. Do you want to know why our culture has seemed... more than a little schizophrenic when it comes to its decisions? You can blame the media for that. Remember when the media said that Covid was just the flu and you were racist for being concerned about it? Great, the media doesn't remember that either.

Some point after the Chinese New Year, the media went in the other direction... hard. And uh... why this happened was stupid. I'm sorry it is just the most stupid partisan shit that I've ever... you wanna hear a story? In January, all of the news reports were downplaying the Coronavirus. All of them. The flu was more deadly. Here's just one of them. (94). You want to know what happened? I'll tell you what happened? Listening to the news and hearing that they were all downplaying this thing, the president Donald Trump said that we have this thing under control. (95)

Look, I'm not the biggest fan of the president, but the news' relationship with him... as been frustrating for the longest time. (96) Here's an article about how he and other presidents eat his steaks because it's important for the American people to know that he eats his with ketchup (97). So Trump issued his travel ban and declared the country under quarantine in January. Media tore him to bits for it. It was racist and ineffective.

And if you really want know my feelings about this whole thing, this makes me... less angry at him for his actions. There's a concept in politics known as political capital. Political capital more or less is what any politician can... feasibly do based on their reputation or favors that they've accumulated. Unpopular things that politicians do cost more political capital, and extremely popular politicians are able to do things without expending much at all. In my opinion, the extreme backlash to the first measures the guy did made it seem like he had spent as much of his political capitol as he could've.

If he had done anything else at this point, he would've been dragged and berated. I honestly find the claim that he should've done more way back in January or even February a little bit... shortsighted. I'm not saying what he did was effective. I'm saying that anything more he would've done would have unilaterally been seen as unpopular by the wider public. Not only that, but in January he was going through an Impeachment trial. Anything that he did would've made that situation worse.

What did people want to tackle the crisis? Oh well, eventually they wanted more travel restrictions. Eventually they wanted us to all lockdown, people to be prevented from going to to

their own jobs. How do you think it would look, for a president who was being accused of various types of corruption to begin an authoritarian clamp down during an impeachment trial?

By April, everyone criticized the guy for not doing anything. (98)(99)(100). You find articles from April and May about how he should've done more things. He had early warning. Earlier action could've saved lives. Uh-huh. And one of the main criticisms of the lockdowns is a rise of authoritarianism. And do you know of the bigger fears of the Trump presidency? That he'd pull a Hungary and turn himself into a dictator.

And the media has been like this... all the way through. Remember when Trump called the coronavirus a hoax? In February. After he had already banned travel from China and put the country on quarantine and hired Dr. Fauci? (101) He didn't call the disease itself a hoax. He called the politicization of the virus a hoax, which is still a poor choice of words because it doesn't seem to be a hoax at all but actual observable reality. (102).

Petty politics is one thing, but the attitude of the news media has probably gotten people killed. No, this is no exaggeration. And I'm not just talking about the panic that people have been frenzied into. Let's talk about hydroxychloroquine. In March, Trump argued that the drug, an anti-malarial which has been used to treat Lupus in the past had hope in treatment of Covid (103). And of course, the media was quick to tear him a new one.

First of all, a woman killed her husband with fish tank cleaner. (104) She claimed that it sounded similar to that of the drug that was touted and she fed it to herself and her husband. She blamed Trump for this, and the media ran away with this. Uh... she's now under investigation for murdering her husband with the fish tank cleaner because nothing about her story added up. For starters she was a registered democrat, not a Trump support (105)

People even claimed that Trump had a financial stake in sales of Hydroxychloroquine. (106) Snopes rated this as mostly false. Mostly because he sought to gain like... a hundred bucks. He had independent trusts that he didn't really control that have partially invested in the drug and the amount he could've gotten was beyond negligible for a man who is a billionaire.

The drug immediately became political. Let me repeat that. A medication became a football and what people thought about it in some cases depended on their political opinion. And yeah, there were studies about this. One study was so significant it got the WHO to stop trials on the drug. This study was later retracted. (106) The people behind the study didn't respond to independent requests for audit; outside experts raised concern over it. It was largely propped up for political reasons.

Does it work? Does it not? I don't know. And this is the problem, I can't know. Because there is so much competing information. This isn't just scientific disagreement either. It's political disagreement. Some studies show its effective. Some studies show it kills people. There's a major major problem here.

You want to know a fun trick? Log into google and look for search results before the year 2020, and look for news reports under "too clean." You will see countless, and I mean countless studies and articles and web pages that say that we are too clean as a society. (107) That we kill beneficial bacteria and destroy the horny layer of our skin by washing too much. That being too clean will cause increased allergies in children and auto immune disorders in the rest of us. Is this true? I don't fucking no. I really don't.

Did we all just decide that all of these peer reviewed studies that were repeatedly reported on are just... not true? Yeah, science changes over time, but not this quickly. The fact that this was such a common idea before 2020 was a problem. Either that or abandoning that idea right now is the problem.

One of the most frustrating things of this whole endeavor is how society as a whole seems to have the memory of a goldfish. Maybe that's a symptom of Covid. Remember when protests were seen as white nationalist? (108) You know, until the protests became about Black Lives matter? According to the news, the Black Lives Matter protests actually lead to a slowdown of Covid (109) We went from protesting is putting hospitals in jeopardy to over a thousand doctors signing an open letter, saying protesting some things were important (110). Protests that were bigger, closer knit, and went on longer than the lockdown protests by the way. In some places they're still ongoing.

Let me tell you, that letter that the doctors signed shot the credibility of our health establishment even more. It showed that our medical establishment was willing to put politics in front of medicine and science. Not to mention that they have all engaged in an act of racism for doing this. Covid, as long been known, disproportionately affects black people more than white people. (111) What these doctors have done was condemned the white people from going out and protesting and instead encouraged a more vulnerable group to go out and protest during a pandemic. Yes, it wasn't only people of color protesting; but the protests did occur mainly in areas with higher concentrations of minority populations. By putting politics in front of medicine and science, these people condemned vulnerable people explicitly by their own words to an uneven risk.

Remember how the news said that Donald Trump was stupid for saying that sunlight could do a number on Covid? And then we found out that sunlight could do a number on Covid. (112)

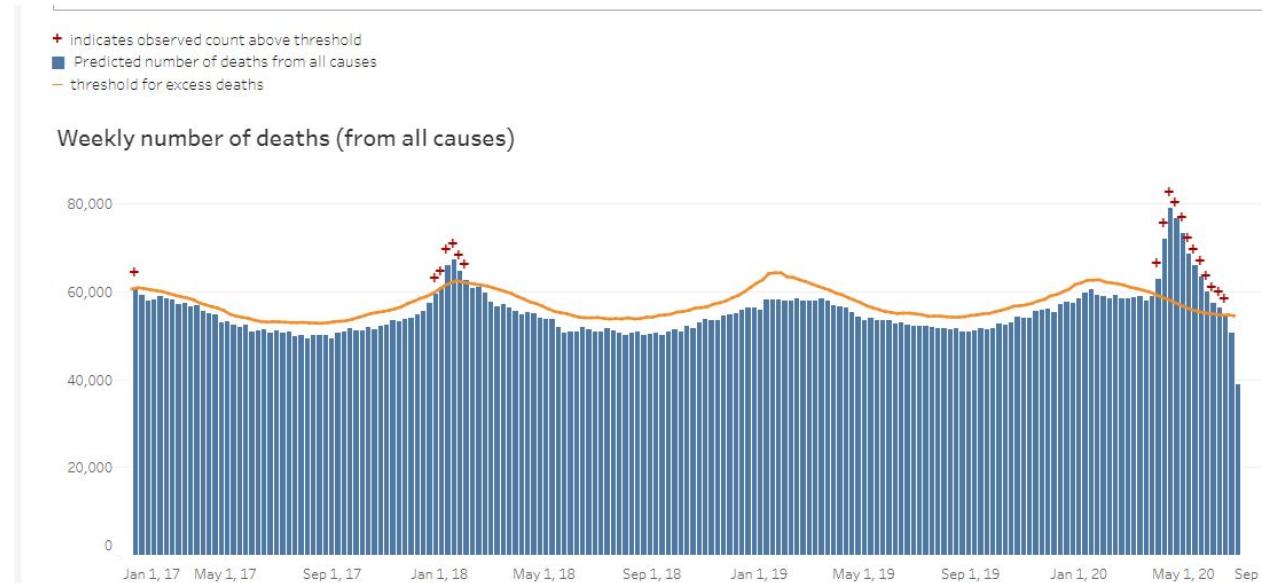
Yeah, it's a really good thing that we told everyone to stay inside and out of the sunlight. It's also a really good thing we closed all of the gyms because obesity is another main risk factor for Covid and one of the reasons the US was hit so hard. (113)

And the news is still doing this shit. It started with worrying about Covid is racist. Then it was Covid is going to kill us all. Then it was lockdowns are necessary and protesting is evil. Then it was protesting is highly important, and no it isn't causing an increase in cases. And now we're back to a mysterious second wave of the illness.

Covid cases have been spiking in many states around the US. Here's the thing though. The death rate continues to fall. (114) No one is entirely sure why. There are some guesses. One of the things pointed out is increased testing. In some locations in the United States, you can get a test on demand basically. Another theory is that it's now infecting young people rather than old people.

The news reports this as the big scary thing, but it's actually good news. A young person's immune system is far more robust at fighting off illnesses than an older person. This is one of the reason that the elderly's death rate from this has been so high. While people under the age of 18 have died, it's even less than the flu (115). If this thing only affects, or primarily affects younger people like the flu does, we're on the road to getting better.

Another theory is that all of the people who were going to die of covid already had. (116)



Look at this chart here. This is the CDC's chart for excess mortality. Anything above the line with a plus marked on it shows that more people died that month than were expected to. The

left-most bump was the particularly bad influenza season of 2018. I want you to take a look at the far right though. These aren't bars in progress. They're already finished recording and June has had the lowest excess morality all together, while lockdown measures have been expiring or ending.

It's fair to speculate that the absence of June deaths may have been because of the earlier excess, in short some of the people that Covid killed back in winter and spring would have brought June's excess morality to relative normal.

Another issue is that people have been recording deaths funny. The most notable issue is that some states, 11 of them, have been mixing antibody and viral cases. (117) If you've had Covid and have recovered from it and you get an antibody test, you are counted as a positive case. Colorado, Delaware, Georgia, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania, Vermont, Virginia, and most notably Texas has been doing this. I point to Texas because right now they're freaking out about a second wave on the rise.

Some states, such as Arizona, do not report recovery numbers (118) Most damningly however, is that the CDC has asked states to start including probable cases in their findings. When the two of them are merged together, like they have been in New Jersey, it can make things look far worse than they are.(119) In New York City, 3,700 people were counted that had never tested positive for Covid, because they were probable cases. Do you want to know how bad the testing situation can get? The country of Tanzania sent the WHO a goat, a quail, and a papaya sample to test for Covid. All of them came back positive. (120)

The news has been desperate to scare people. Oh no, the disease causes kawasaki disease in children. (121) Of 21 tested cases, only 4 had Covid antibodies. Also, I want you to take a careful look at the headline. It almost disagrees with the content of the actual article. Also, we've been seeing less diagnoses of kawasaki disease this year, not more (122)

And of course, we have to talk about the gold standard. The vaccine. We can't return to normal until the vaccine after all. Many US states and many other countries have it in their protocols that they can't go to certain stages of reopening until a vaccine is available. So, let's talk about it. In April, we got a rough timeline for one... 18 months. (123) It's been reported on again and again even as the months moved. 18 - 3 months still equals 18. Because even back then, experts were saying that that was ridiculously fast for creating a vaccine.

The fastest vaccine developed, in all of history, was the mumps vaccine. That took four years. (124) And keep in mind, that is the record. Something as serious as ebola started in 2013 and it took until last year to get a vaccine (125). This was a disease far deadlier than Covid, it kills in a

far worse way, and it had the world in panic. Fun fact though, the methods that we've been using to try and curb Covid were criticized when they were used to try and curb the spread of Ebola. (126)

HIV/AIDS became a pandemic in the 80's. There is still no vaccine for it. There are better treatments, but it's more than 30 years later and this disease still has no vaccine, which once again, kills in a more pain than Covid. It is not impossible that it could take that long to get a vaccine for Covid-19 and every single plan, by necessity, needs to incorporate the possibility that a vaccine will never come along. Any other course of action is the most short sighted foolishness.

Because, and this is key here, no vaccine has EVER been made for a coronavirus. Not one. The common cold is caused by a coronavirus, and they've been trying to cure it since the 50's. But let's talk about vaccines we have been able to make. The flu vaccine. We're good with that one each and every year. The 2020 flu shot is 46% percent effective (127) Meaning that getting it is basically less than a coin flip at protection. It's better than nothing, don't get me wrong, but it by no means that you're completely protected from the flu. And this is something that we've been working on each and every year.

Of course, you've got other problems. In the UK, Covid has been disappearing so fast that they don't have a big enough population to test it on. (128) In order to speed up production, scientists are skipping rounds of safety testing (129). Skipping animal testing might appease some animal rights groups, but it's necessary to ensure that a vaccine won't have nasty side effects. In very rare cases even vaccines that we have tested can trigger bad side effects or allergic reactions in people (130)

During the early 2000's, the US military was given anthrax vaccines that had concerns over their safety in the wake of 9/11 and anthrax attacks sent through the mail (131) Many of them suffered side effects that made them unable to do their jobs - severe joint pains, memory loss, arthritis. This is not somewhere you want to make a mistake, especially if you want to run mass vaccination programs. A failure rate in a population of 1 percent is 10,000 people for every million. The anthrax vaccine was said to be safe and was said to be 93 percent effective.

Most worryingly, to fast track things even further, governments have been thinking of granting pharmaceutical companies indemnity if something goes wrong (132)(133). This means that if something goes wrong. If the vaccine has a side effect, it doesn't work, it even kills you, the company that made it will not be held legally liable for whatever happens. With a vaccine that they've skipped important safety protocols. But no, you're an antivaxxer if that makes you

worried. I mean at this point, only 50% of Americans are considering getting it (134). And these are pretty good reasons why.

Even ignoring that, the question isn't just "can we make a vaccine" but "can we make enough of them" Even with vaccines that we do have and know how to make, we have trouble making enough of. (135) Take a look at some of these headlines.(136) This is a headline for the 2018 flu season. Back then hospitals were incredibly overwhelmed, vaccine efficiency wasn't good, and as you've noticed it had a particularly high death total. Maybe the news was right when they called this the flu because according to them the flu is going to kill us all.

The extent of their lies is disgusting. CBS used footage from Italy and insinuated that it was from New York City. (138) Chris Cuomo, a news reporter talked up his symptoms of the disease and made it sound horrible. In the end, he broke quarantine like so many others. (139) A news reporter scolded people for not wearing masks and a bystander came about to reveal that his cameraman wasn't wearing a mask (140)

So... where does that leave us now? Fractured economies, countries, and lives for methods that have done little to nothing or have massively backfired, and there's something religious about the hope in a vaccine. There's no question about if, but when. It'll come down from on high, it'll be there for everyone, it'll be flawless. You only get that kind of blind faith in church.

At this point, our first priority should be learning from our mistakes. To recap, we panicked. A lot. We did a lot of stupid shit in our panic. Some of us hoarded toilet paper. Others of us did a lot worse, snitching on our neighbors. Someone even burned down a church that wasn't following social distancing protocols. Yeah, that'll stop the spread of Covid, unleashing a fire that can burn down a whole fucking town. (137)

Throughout 2020 I've been increasingly depressed. It wasn't just from the virus and the worry that it created, but from how everyone reacted to it. How everyone was ready to tear each other out at the throat throughout it all, and being so high and mighty about their moral superiority while doing it. The blind belief in the news as they changed their story back and forth was infuriating. A special kind of infuriating. Every time, it was "they've got to stop believing this shit now. Okay now. What about now." No, never, as they literally contradicted themselves time and time again.

You have no right to get angry or uppity about anyone wearing masks after our health establishment, all of it, discouraged mask use back during the start of this pandemic. You have no right to get angry at people doubting a vaccine when you're rushing it past health and safety

trials. The only sympathy that's being thrown around to the people who have had their lives sacrificed is a phone number for an overwhelmed suicide hotline.

All for methods and policies that gain more and more evidence that they don't work, while the same people clinging to old models claim "follow the science." I'm tired of the goal creep. From 15 days of flattening the curve to eradicating the virus, something which is not possible to do. It's very possible because this is so widespread that it may turn from pandemic to endemic (141), but that's not as worrying as it sounds because repeatedly we're seeing that the death rate of it is falling. The number of deaths of Covid have been declining for ten straight weeks as we bungle out of lockdowns and into mask policies, which means that it's on its way to losing its epidemic status (142). You have to take this into consideration if you want to still "follow the science."

I didn't even mention everything throughout this whole thing, but the more and more that I look into it, the bigger a mistake all of this was. Not the virus. Our human reactions in response to it. In many cases, if we did literally nothing we would have been better off. One data point we're still looking for is the excess mortality of the entire year. If places that didn't lock down like Sweden or some of the US states have even equivalent excess mortality than the rest of the world that did lock down it will be the final nail in the coffin, but there is very little that can justify any of the measures that we took to fight this invisible enemy.

If people ever ask you how the world ended, all you ever have to tell them is that we did everything we could to stop it, and that included ending the world.

(1) <https://web.archive.org/web/20200124052448/https://www.latimes.com/world-nation/story/2020-01-23/fear-spreads-throughout-china-as-officials-take-unprecedented-measure-to-stop-coronavirus>

- (2) https://twitter.com/freezerohedge1/status/1225927894905577473?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1225927894905577473%7Ctwgr%5E&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.albawaba.com%2Fnode%2Fchina-locking-entire-residential-buildings-people-inside-stop-coronavirus-1337918
- (3) https://twitter.com/jenniferatndt/status/1226285387536093184?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1226285387536093184%7Ctwgr%5E&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.albawaba.com%2Fnode%2Fchina-locking-entire-residential-buildings-people-inside-stop-coronavirus-1337918
- (4) <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/three-ways-china-is-using-drones-to-fight-coronavirus/>
- (5) <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-03-19/Admonition-letter-to-Dr-Li-Wenliang-improper-investigation-OZvG7i94Fa/index.html>
- (6) https://twitter.com/WHO/status/1217043229427761152?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1217043229427761152%7Ctwgr%5E&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.foxnews.com%2Fworld%2Fworld-health-organization-january-tweet-china-human-transmission-coronavirus
- (7) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=U1CYFh8U2xM>
- (8) https://in.news.yahoo.com/italy-launched-hug-chinese-campaign-065339340.html?guccounter=1&guce_referrer=aHR0cHM6Ly93d3cuZ29vZ2x1LmNvbS8&guce_referrer_sig=AQAAAEDH8xkvc4YoGZio7o0fSvcBGdipyHh9kxFbSvvvNYGEo-Aw-VzE9CTzbrCY522MkpPQOK1r9pRGBiwooLnKwp03evKyS1QXyWf_FnqkGCqYOOkC78wpFgi1Bx18Z7I1JOYyJX1IXjYz30m7kfTDOk0aNO7z_gLgke9HQPV3XDrZ1
- (9) https://twitter.com/tomselliott/status/1244367217912881160?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E1244367217912881160%7Ctwgr%5E&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fsummit.news%2F2020%2F03%2F30%2Fin-late-february-nancy-pelosi-encouraged-large-groups-to-congregate-in-chinatown%2F
- (10) <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-cuomo-delivers-remarks-marching-flushing-lunar-new-year-parade>
- (11) <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/06/08/871822321/with-no-current-cases-new-zealand-lifts-remaining-covid-19-restrictions>
- (12) <https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/06/16/878316880/after-weeks-of-no-new-cases-of-covid-19-in-new-zealand-2-cases-arrive-from-u-k>
- (13) <https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/media-releases/third-case-covid-19-confirmed-new-zealand>
- (14) <https://www.cnn.com/2020/07/10/asia/man-escapes-quarantine-new-zealand-intl-scli/index.html>
- (15) <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/01/24/coronavirus-versus-flu-influenza-deadlier-than-wuhan-china-disease/4564133002/>
- (16) <https://www.latimes.com/science/story/2020-01-24/china-coronavirus-panic>

- (17) <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/02/01/coronavirus-flu-deadlier-more-widespread-than-wuhan-china-virus/4632508002/>
- (18) <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-53259236>
- (19) <https://web.archive.org/web/20200709110957/https://www.thetimes.co.uk/article/new-zealanders-worry-about-cost-of-beating-coronavirus-qk6pvjqf1>
- (20) <https://web.archive.org/web/20200701035724/https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2020/us/coronavirus-nursing-homes.html>
- (21) <https://web.archive.org/web/20200424201004/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/24/us/nursing-homes-coronavirus.html>
- (22) <https://www.politifact.com/factchecks/2020/jun/13/andrew-cuomo/new-yorks-nursing-home-policy-was-not-line-cdc/>
- (23) <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/05/06/ny-gov-cuomo-says-its-shocking-most-new-coronavirus-hospitalizations-are-people-staying-home.html>
- (24) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/brucelee/2020/02/16/for-covad-19-coronavirus-how-we-all-do-thermometer-guns-even-work/#68e78cbe2af9>
- (25) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2X1Tgmsv9Ao>
- (26) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QWm0ytokzOI>
- (27) <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/factcheck/2020/04/01/fact-check-does-new-york-have-stockpile-unneeded-ventilators/5097170002/>
- (28) <https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2020/04/16/new-york-sending-100-ventilators-to-new-jersey-1277241>
- (29) <https://www.bostonherald.com/2020/04/19/new-york-governor-to-send-400-ventilators-to-massachusetts-despite-criticism-in-home-state/>
- (30) <https://www.statnews.com/2020/04/21/coronavirus-analysis-recommends-less-reliance-on-ventilators/>
- (31) <https://www.nbcnews.com/news/world/coronavirus-u-k-jolted-pm-boris-johnson-get-oxygen-intensive-n1178266>
- (32) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/patrickgleason/2020/05/08/andrew-cuomo-confirms-new-york-will-tax-out-of-state-volunteer-health-workers-congress-can-stop-this/#674c93e55f12>
- (33) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/zackjones/2020/04/02/andrew-cuomo-presidential-election-odds-surge-third-behind-trump-biden/#4d5f2703298d>
- (34) <https://nationalpost.com/news/world/we-will-send-police-with-flame-throwers-italian-mayors-lose-it-at-people-refusing-to-self-isolate>
- (35) <https://www.businessinsider.com/coronavirus-white-house-15-day-plan-too-short-2020-3>
- (36) <https://www.aei.org/articles/lockdowns-dont-work/>
- (37) <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.24.20078717v1>
- (38) <https://mises.org/wire/do-lockdowns-work-mounting-evidence-says-no>

- (39) <https://www.dw.com/en/coronavirus-latest-sweden-sees-no-new-deaths-for-first-time-in-11-weeks/a-53636403>
- (40) <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-53300784>
- (41) <https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18392616.warning-backlog-surgeries-break-nhs-72-cut-urgent-cancer-referrals-revealed/>
- (42) <https://www.statnews.com/2020/05/26/hospitals-are-busier-than-ever-and-going-out-of-business/>
- (43) <https://www.battlecreekenquirer.com/story/news/health/2020/04/02/coronavirus-pandemic-jobs-us-health-care-workers-furloughed-laid-off/5102320002/>
- (44) <https://web.archive.org/web/20200604085936/https://www.telegraph.co.uk/health-fitness/body/chewing-gum-wire-cutters-superglue-alarming-rise-diy-dentistry/>
- (45) <https://www.cnn.com/2020/05/22/health/vaccine-babies-coronavirus-who-wellness/index.html>
- (46) <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/calls-us-helpline-jump-891-white-house-warned/story?id=70010113>
- (47) <https://web.archive.org/web/20200519092118/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/19/health/pandemic-coronavirus-suicide-health.html>
- (48) <https://www.wave3.com/2020/06/11/gun-sales-rising-especially-among-first-time-buyers/>
- (49) <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/almost-addicted/201801/solitary-confinement-torture-pure-and-simple>
- (50) <https://www.inc.com/amy-morin/americas-loneliness-epidemic-is-more-lethal-than-smoking-heres-what-you-can-do-to-combat-isolation.html>
- (51) <https://theconversation.com/america-is-drinking-its-way-through-the-coronavirus-crisis-that-means-more-health-woes-ahead-135532>
- (52) <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/coronavirus-lockdown-eases-uk-domestic-abuse-charity-sees-huge-surge-in-calls-for-help/>
- (53) https://www.reddit.com/r/Coronavirus/comments/fn3j0w/how_to_stop_a_virus_from_spreading/
- (54) <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/04/1062272>
- (55) <https://www.treehugger.com/food-banks-struggling-coronavirus-pandemic-4859439>
- (56) <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/07/10/looming-evictions-may-soon-make-28-million-homeless-expert-says.html>
- (57) <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/children-risk-lasting-psychological-distress-coronavirus-lockdown-save-children>
- (58) https://web.archive.org/web/20200419220954/https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/africa/kenya-coronavirus-curfew-crackdown-death-toll/2020/04/15/740a8c4e-79be-11ea-a311-adb1344719a9_story.html
- (59) <https://www.politico.eu/article/hungary-no-longer-a-democracy-report/>

- (60) <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-brazil-amazon/amazon-mayor-warns-of-indigenous-genocide-as-coronavirus-spreads-idUSKBN22W32U>
- (61) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/06/residents-melbourne-covid-19-tower-lockdown-food-supplies-inadequate>
- (62) <https://www.politico.com/states/new-york/albany/story/2020/04/29/criminal-incompliance-outrage-after-de-blasio-breaks-up-crowded-orthodox-jewish-funeral-1280852>
- (63) <https://abc7ny.com/middleton-playground-nyc-parks-williamsburg-assembly-member-jospeh-lentol/6249477/>
- (64) <https://www.foxnews.com/us/new-york-cuomo-de-blasio-coronavirus-discrimination-lawsuit>
- (65) <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/497560-michigan-governor-whitmer-lockdown-protests-are-racist-and-misogynistic>
- (66) <https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/local/michigan/2020/06/04/whitmer-appears-break-social-distance-rules-highland-park-march/3146244001/>
- (67) <https://www.loc.gov/rr/scitech/GW&smallpoxinoculation.html#:~:text=With%20few%20surgeons%2C%20fewer%20medical,a%20risky%20stroke%20of%20genius.>
- (68) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jacobson_v._Massachusetts
- (69) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Buck_v._Bell
- (70) <https://www.cnn.com/2020/04/10/politics/pandemic-coronavirus-jacobson-supreme-court-abortion-rights/index.html>
- (71) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Todd_Kincannon
- (72) https://twitter.com/surgeon_general/status/1233725785283932160?lang=en
- (73) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PRa6t_e7dgI&feature=youtu.be
- (74) <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/health/2020/03/31/coronavirus-masks-n-95-surgical-diy-should-we-all-wearing-one/5093429002/>
- (75) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZqRL1GXu5DE>
- (76) <https://www.theverge.com/2020/7/10/21318991/etsy-mesh-masks-coronavirus-poor-protection>
- (77) <https://www.cbc.ca/news/health/mandatory-masks-1.5615728>
- (78) <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/01/south-korea-incidents-of-covid-19-mask-rage-flares-as-summer-heats-up>
- (79) <https://foreignpolicy.com/2020/05/13/coronavirus-resurgence-south-korea-reignites-homophobia/>
- (80) <https://web.archive.org/web/20200419055646/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/16/world/europe/coronavirus-antibody-test-uk.html>
- (81) <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-india-52451455>
- (82) <https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2015/05/150519182201.htm>
- (83) <https://www.theatlantic.com/ideas/archive/2020/04/just-give-distance-learning/610222/>

- (84) <https://www.chalkbeat.org/2020/3/24/21196123/the-coronavirus-double-whammy-school-closures-economic-downturn-could-derail-student-learning-research>
- (85) <https://chicago.suntimes.com/education/2020/5/27/21271582/online-remote-learning-cps-students-public-schools-engagement>
- (86) <https://losangeles.cbslocal.com/2020/03/31/coronavirus-los-angeles-eric-garcetti-snitches-get-rewards/>
- (87) <https://www.insider.com/new-york-city-social-distancing-snitch-line-number-de-blasio-2020-4>
- (88) <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8282475/Missourians-tipped-county-lockdown-rule-breakers-fear-retaliation-release.html>
- (89) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVJbenwzR1s>
- (90) <https://www.adasoutheast.org/ada/publications/legal/ada-and-face-mask-policies.php>
- (91) <https://update.lib.berkeley.edu/2020/05/23/did-masks-work-the-1918-flu-pandemic-and-the-meaning-of-layered-interventions/>
- (92) https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Asymptomatic_carrier
- (93) <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/tuberculosis>
- (94) <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2020/01/29/800813299/worried-about-catting-the-new-coronavirus-in-the-u-s-flu-is-a-bigger-threat>
- (95) <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-davos-meeting-trump-coronavirus/trump-says-u-s-in-great-shape-with-plan-for-coronavirus-idUSKBN1ZL13C>
- (96) <https://www.businessinsider.com/how-presidents-eat-steak-2018-2>
- (97) https://www.vox.com/policy-and-politics/2020/4/18/21226500/coronavirus-two-thirds-americans-think-trump-acted-too-slowly?_c=1
- (98) <https://www.forbes.com/sites/arielshapiro/2020/04/12/fauci-trump-earlier-action-on-coronavirus-would-have-saved-lives/#5f49cda97fed>
- (99) <https://web.archive.org/web/20200416140049/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/16/health/WHO-Trump-coronavirus.html>
- (100) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G5TZ6fTYrsE>
- (101) <https://www.factcheck.org/2020/04/democratic-ad-twists-trumps-hoax-comment/>
- (102) <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2020/04/13/how-false-hope-spread-about-hydroxychloroquine-its-consequences/>
- (103) <https://www.pharmacypracticenews.com/Covid-19/Article/03-20/Man-Dies-Wife-Hospitalized-From-Ingesting-Fish-Tank-Cleaner-to-Prevent-COVID-19/57707>
- (104) <https://news.yahoo.com/woman-blamed-trump-giving-her-133613382.html>
- (105) <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/trump-profit-hydroxychloroquine/>
- (106) <https://www.statnews.com/2020/06/04/lancet-retracts-major-covid-19-paper-that-raised-safety-concerns-about-malaria-drugs/>
- (107) <https://home.howstuffworks.com/home-improvement/household-hints-tips/cleaning-organizing/too-clean-hygiene-sweet-spot.htm>

- (108) <https://www.businessinsider.com/why-white-supremacists-have-protested-lockdown-orders-2020-5>
- (109) <https://coloradosun.com/2020/06/30/police-protests-coronavirus-spread/>
- (110) <https://www.cnn.com/2020/06/05/health/health-care-open-letter-protests-coronavirus-trnd/index.html>
- (111) <https://www.hopkinsmedicine.org/health/conditions-and-diseases/coronavirus/covid19-racial-disparities>
- (112) <https://www.contagionlive.com/news/sunlight-inactivates-the-airborne-virus-that-causes-covid19>
- (113) <https://hub.jhu.edu/2020/06/01/david-kass-obesity-covid-19/>
- (114) <https://web.archive.org/web/20200703195004/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/07/03/health/coronavirus-mortality-testing.html>
- (115) <https://freopp.org/estimating-the-risk-of-death-from-covid-19-vs-influenza-or-pneumonia-by-age-630aea3ae5a9>
- (116) https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid19/excess_deaths.htm
- (117) <https://fox4kc.com/tracking-coronavirus/cdc-and-11-states-acknowledge-mixing-results-of-viral-and-antibody-tests/>
- (118) <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/local/arizona-health/2020/05/20/arizona-has-yet-report-covid-19-recovery-numbers-weeks-behind-schedule/5233230002/>
- (119) <https://web.archive.org/web/20200417100457/https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2020/apr/15/cdc-tells-states-add-probable-coronavirus-cases-de/>
- (120) <https://greatgameindia.com/tanzania-kicks-out-who-after-goat-papaya-samples-came-covid-19-positive/>
- (121) <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/amp/canada/article-new-syndrome-in-children-thought-to-be-linked-to-covid-19-yields/>
- (122) <https://www.societi.org.uk/kawasaki-disease-covid-19/responding-to-press-coverage-28-april-2020/>
- (123) <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/31/us/coronavirus-vaccine-timetable-concerns-experts-inv/index.html>
- (124) <https://discoveries.childrenshospital.org/covid-19-vaccine/>
- (125) <https://www.fda.gov/news-events/press-announcements/first-fda-approved-vaccine-prevention-ebola-virus-disease-marking-critical-milestone-public-health>
- (126) <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/politics/quarantines-rarely-used-effectiveness-questioned>
- (127) <https://www.insider.com/how-effective-is-the-flu-shot>
- (128) <https://news.cgtn.com/news/2020-05-25/COVID-19-disappearing-so-fast-vaccine-has-50-chance-of-working-QMLMMAUWJO/index.html>
- (129) <https://www.livescience.com/coronavirus-vaccine-trial-no-animal-testing.html>
- (130) <https://www.cdc.gov/flu/prevent/guillainbarre.htm>

- (131) <https://journalofethics.ama-assn.org/article/informed-consent-military-anthrax-vaccination-case/2007-10>
- (132) <https://web.archive.org/web/20200429235744/https://www.nytimes.com/2020/04/29/us/politics/trump-coronavirus-vaccine-operation-warp-speed.html>
- (133) <https://www.evaluate.com/vantage/articles/news/corporate-strategy/big-pharma-throws-out-old-models-race-covid-19-vaccine>
- (134) <https://www.sciencemag.org/news/2020/06/just-50-americans-plan-get-covid-19-vaccine-here-s-how-win-over-rest>
- (135) <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC5357707/>
- (136) <https://time.com/5107984/hospitals-handling-burden-flu-patients/>
- (137) <https://web.archive.org/web/20200522203919/https://www.washingtonpost.com/nation/2020/05/22/mississippi-church-coronavirus-restrictions-fire/>
- (138) <https://www.snopes.com/fact-check/cbs-news-italian-hospital/>
- (139) <https://www.newsbreak.com/news/0OuNmCjY/chris-cuomo-inadvertently-admits-to-lying-about-his-coronavirus-quarantine>
- (140) https://www.realclearpolitics.com/video/2020/05/26/man_points_out_msnbc_camera_man_not_wearing_mask_during_segment_about_masks.html
- (141) <https://www.refinery29.com/en-us/2020/05/9816627/what-is-endemic-coronavirus-meaning>
- (142) <https://justthenews.com/politics-policy/coronavirus/covid-19-close-losing-its-epidemic-status-us-according-cdc>
- (143) <https://www.drdannyyokeefe.com/blog/2015/09/26/why-you-shouldn-t-delay-dental-162961#:~:text=Delaying%20dental%20treatment%20can%20allow,detrimental%20consequences%20to%20oral%20health.>
- (144) <https://youtu.be/Sqex07kJhzU?t=38>

Video Exclusive Sources

- (145) <https://www.statnews.com/2020/06/30/taiwan-lessons-fighting-covid-19-using-electronic-health-records/>
- (146) <https://www.unitedwayla.org/en/news-resources/blog/understanding-devastating-connection-between-homelessness-and-death/>
- (147) <http://makeitourbusiness.ca/warning-signs/domestic-violence-is-there-a-risk-of-death>
- (148) <https://www.neweurope.eu/article/who-reverses-course-praises-lockdown-ignoring-sweden/>
- (149) <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/495086-parade-thanks-south-dakota-governor-amid-coronavirus>
- (150) https://billingsgazette.com/news/state-and-regional/health-officials-no-covid-19-cases-traced-back-to-july-3-event-at-mount-rushmore/article_0e5eb92e-dd92-54ae-bcf3-46ce3bd86469.html

- (151) <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/health-pmn/ohio-becomes-sixth-u-s-state-to-declare-coronavirus-lockdown>
- (152) <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/california-man-dies-tooth-infection-blood-lungs-dentist-new-york-a7557446.html>
- (153) <https://www.foxbusiness.com/personal-finance/cares-act-benefits-taxes>
- (154) <https://medium.com/fearless-she-wrote/how-women-are-endangered-by-contact-tracing-8177e8f22d3a>
- (155) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=R86DSS1yxSY>
- (156) <http://oceansasia.org/beach-mask-coronavirus/>
- (157) <https://globalnews.ca/news/6815936/coronavirus-justin-trudeau-andrew-scheer-easter-travel/>
- (158) <https://www.nationalreview.com/news/i-take-my-personal-hygiene-very-seriously-chicago-mayor-lori-lightfoot-violates-her-own-quarantine-advice-to-get-a-haircut/>
- (159) https://web.archive.org/web/20200602151023/https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/boris-johnsons-top-aide-accused-of-violating-quarantine-with-260-mile-road-trip/2020/05/23/d22102de-9ce3-11ea-ad79-eef7cd734641_story.html